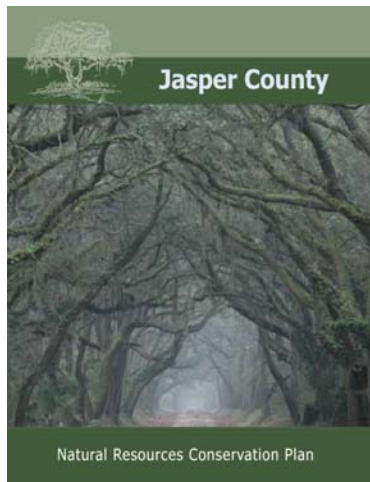




2006 Year in Review

Natural Resources Comprehensive Plan Adopted by County Council



At a November 2006 meeting, the Jasper County Council voted to include the *Jasper County Natural Resources Conservation Plan* as an attachment to the current county Comprehensive Plan. Many of you may recall attending the initial community meetings at the Blue Heron that began two years ago to develop this Plan. The Jasper District views this decision as a major success for conservation in the County.

The *Jasper County Natural Resources Conservation Plan* was developed to address a community concern for the unique and diverse natural amenities and traditional land management practices in Jasper County. The Jasper Soil and Water Conservation District, with support from SC Department of Natural Resources, SC Sea Grant Consortium, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, led the effort to gather public input. Over 20 public agencies and various community members played a role in the development of this Plan that was initiated early 2005. This document reflects public concerns, input, and goals for the County's natural resources and the quality of life surrounding them. The foremost goals of this Plan were to assure preservation and conservation of our County's water quality, wildlife populations, natural areas, and working farms and plantations.

"Never doubt that a small, thoughtful group of concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."
—Margaret Mead

Thank you to all our affiliate members whose support assisted with this tremendous effort and to all the Focus Group members who helped write the Plan. Copies of this Plan should be available by March at the Learning Center and on our website. The District plans to strive toward implementing the suggestions of this Plan throughout 2007 and anticipate your support on issues such as developing minimum buffers for waterways and roads, agricultural districts, and a County Conservation Bank.

Jasper Receives 2005 "District of the Year Award" for SC!

The Jasper District was selected as the winner of the **2005 South Carolina Outstanding Conservation District Award!** The honor, determined by the South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts, was presented to the District at an awards banquet in Myrtle Beach at the House of Blues in January 2006. This award was presented to the commissioners and District for their hard work, including:

- County *Natural Resources Conservation Plan*
- 1,000 students learn at the Learning Center annually
- 10,000 annual visitors to the Nature Trail and exhibit room.
- Community Conservation Partnerships.



2006 Jasper District Commissioners Zenie Ingram, Robert Cope, Gordon Wells, Thomas Stanley, and C.M. Danzler.

A new Blue Heron billboard, used as the newsletter banner, was designed by Adams Outdoor Advertising & funded by County A-tax.

Environmental Education

In 2006, over 800 students participated in environmental education programs led by volunteers and part-time staff at the Blue Heron. Shown here, students from Holy Cross School learn about animal furs. Other programs are listed on-line and include:
<Fish Printing> <Tracks & trails> <Field Ecology> <Wildlife Habitats>



Seminars

Teachers Mentoring Teachers—Jasper School District sponsored this teachers program last fall that included a natural resources component.

Action for a Cleaner Tomorrow—this early 2006 teacher workshop emphasized recycling education.

View our other workshop opportunities on-line!



Lowcountry Wildland Urban Interface Council

This interagency cooperative was formed in late 2005 to educate homeowners about reducing their risk to wildfire in the Wildland Urban Interface. This partnership effort was successful in securing a **Prescribed Fire Resolution** in Jasper County, initiated to increase education about the benefits of prescribed fire as a management tool. Information on the Council and upcoming events are available at the Blue Heron and coming soon to our website.



NRCS Corner

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) supplies resources for the technical conservation programs in Jasper County. Primarily, their assistance is through Farm Bill programs that provide funding for conservation management.

This year, around \$30,000 was provided through Farm Bill programs administered by NRCS in Jasper County. Conservation practices of some of the 2007 participants will include:

- Small Farmer Program—the farmer will plant Bermuda grass and will eventually run cattle after establishment.
- Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)—three applicants were funded for longleaf planting, warm season grass planting, and other wildlife enhancing practices.
- Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)—landowner will enhance wildlife habitat through prescribed fire, longleaf planting, and several other practices.

Keep Jasper Beautiful



The Keep Jasper Beautiful Program organizes an annual Spring event as part of the Great American Cleanup and Earth Day. Over 300 Jasper County first and second graders participated in the 2006 outing that included a puppet show, clean-ups around the Town of Ridgeland, and parade to the Blue Heron Nature Trail. Shown here, volunteers Jeremy and Logan Plantand pick up along the nature trail.



The Jasper Soil and Water Conservation District (JSWCD) is composed of three elected and two appointed commissioners that serve voluntarily to oversee the conservation efforts for Jasper County. The mission of the Jasper County Soil and Water Conservation District is to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment by promoting wise land use practices, environmental education, and technical assistance. Goals include education, assistance, partnerships, natural resource opportunities, and legislative efforts.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!!!

<http://www.dnr.sc.gov/conservation/districtsdnr/jasper/index.html>

INSERT ADDRESS

321 Bailey Lane
Ridgeland, SC 29936

Jasper Soil and Water Conservation District

